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## GDOT, Partners Rollout Plan to Stop Tire Litter

It could cost up to \$20 million to clean up the 1.5 to 2 million tires that have been illegally abandoned in about 400 tire dump sites throughout Georgia. Along with putting a financial burden on taxpayers, the dumps create many other problems ranging from devaluation of the land to increased mosquito population.

Eric Pitts, state maintenance engineer at Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), told State Transportation Board members at a recent meeting about the Department's efforts to deal with the growing problem of tires being dumped illegally in Georgia.

GDOT has partnered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Mohawk Industries, Home Depot, Liberty Tire Recycling and Keeping Georgia Beautiful to develop an innovative way to clean up illegal dumping sites and prevent new ones from being started.

"The partnership is using a three-pronged approach to attack the problem we are facing in Georgia with illegal tire dumps," Pitts said. "The three approaches are to educate people about the growing problem,

help fund the Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) that pays for the cleanups of the illegal tire dumps and to clean up existing tire dumps."

Liberty Tire Recycling will provide trailers for GDOT staff to load the rubber debris. Liberty will process the rubber into a special grind that can be used for a wide variety of applications, including molded rubber goods and adhesives. Mohawk Industries will use the special grind to create a rubber mat design which will be sold in Home Depot stores across the state. A percentage of proceeds from sale of the mats will go to the SWTF for cleaning more sites.

The recycling campaign will begin in GDOT district headquarters located in Chamblee, Cartersville and Gainesville. DNR will also implement the program in Northwest Georgia.

"We believe this program will save money and provide a service to the citizens of Georgia" Pitts said. "With good results from the program, we will be able to move it to other districts. The intent is to go statewide as soon as we possibly can."

### Several Board committees met in advance of the full Board Meeting. Meeting highlights are below:

**Administrative:** Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the minutes for the Administrative Committee meeting.

**Finance:** Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the minutes for the Finance Committee meeting.

**Intermodal/SWTP:** Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the minutes for the Joint Intermodal/Statewide Transportation Plan/Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

**Legislative:** Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the minutes for the Legislative Committee meeting.

**Program Delivery:** Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the minutes for the Program Delivery Committee meeting.

**Property Utilization:** Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the minutes for the Property Utilization Committee meeting.

### Did You Know?

#### STATE FUND COLLECTIONS

Estimated motor fuel collection, fiscal year to date, is \$579,010,805.99 and is 0.98% under budget. This represents an increase of 7.06% over last year's collections of \$540,838,503.02 for the same time frame

#### TOTAL GDOT EMPLOYMENT FIGURE

The total employment figure for the month of January is 4515.

*Next Board Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia – March 15th*